

Matthew 7:1-6

Application Questions

1. Has anyone ever quoted to you, “Do not judge”? What were the circumstances? Why do you think people say that? Have you found yourself fearful to stand up for what is right because of this?

2. Explain how the way we judge others determines how we will be judged both in life and eternity (v. 2; see also 5:7). How should this knowledge affect the way we view others? Have you ever had “plank-eye syndrome” or an evil eye (vv. 3-5; Mark 7:20-23; Matthew 6:22-23)? Explain.

3. Consider the six ways we can wrongfully judge:
 - Judging hypercritically or harshly (Philippians 4:8)
 - Judging hypocritically (John 8:7; Romans 2:1)
 - Judging by appearance (James 2:2-4; John 7:24)
 - Judging presumptuously (Romans 14:4)
 - Judging prematurely (1 Corinthians 4:5)
 - Judging the person rather than the behavior (James 4:11-12)

Of these, which do you struggle with the most? Explain.

4. Consider the following ways we must exercise right judgment:
 - Judging yourself (Psalm 139:23-24; 1 Corinthians 11:31-32)
 - Judging your brother or sister in Christ (Matthew 7:5b; Luke 17:3-4; Galatians 6:1-2; Heb. 3:13)
 - Judging unbelievers [lost sheep, dog or swine] (Matthew 7:6; 2 Peter 2:2-22)

Of these, which do you struggle with the most? Explain. How can keeping in mind the Day of Judgment help you make right judgments now?